

# **Arizona's Instrument to Measure Standards (AIMS)**

## **Reading and Writing**

**Administered Spring, 2005**

**Released Items**

November 15, 2005

## AIMS Reading Released Items Statistics

As part of Superintendent Horne's ongoing efforts to improve the communication of academic expectations, the Arizona Department of Education is releasing High School Reading, Writing, and Mathematics items to the public. This release is intended to provide students, parents, teachers, and the community with specific examples of the types of skills being assessed on the AIMS tests. The release is divided into a Reading/Writing form and a Mathematics form, similar to the AIMS test.

This release includes a Reading passage, directions, and the items associated with the passage in the form of a mini-test. The Reading section is followed by the Writing section that includes the prompt and directions used in the AIMS test administered in the spring of 2005. This is followed by the individual items with the correct answers and statistical information.

The Mathematics section consists of twenty-five items in the form of a mini-test, followed by the individual items and statistics.

The statistical information provided includes:

- 1) Item identification number;
- 2) Correct answer;
- 3) Response probability (p-value), which represents the percentage of students who answered the question correctly;
- 4) Rasch difficulty, which measures the difficulty of the item on a scale in which -3 indicates a very easy item and +3 indicates an extremely difficult item;
- 5) Original performance objective (parent PO) that the item was used to measure; and
- 6) The performance objective as the item aligns to the 2003 standards.

The items are reproductions of the actual items as they appeared on the AIMS tests. If you have any questions, please contact Frank Brashear at (602) 542-5031.

# READING

## Directions:

Read the story. Then answer the questions that follow.

## The Washerwoman

### Author's Note

*"The Washerwoman" is based on real events that happened in Clara Brown's life and some of the amazing things she endured and accomplished.*

*Born in the early 1800s, she spent her first 57 years as a slave. Her daughter Paulina Ann, Eliza Jane's twin, drowned when she was eight years old. Clara then saw her entire family sold.*

*Her husband and son were sold to a slave trader and Clara knew that they probably died soon afterward. Her daughter Margaret died as a young woman of a respiratory ailment. Eliza Jane was sold to a neighboring plantation owner.*

*Freed by the family when the master died, Clara headed west to Colorado to avoid slave traders who would often capture freed slaves, destroy their papers, and resell them. To pay her way on the wagon train, Clara worked as a cook. Besides cooking, Clara nursed the men when they got sick and helped in any way she could. The men affectionately called her Aunt Clara. Through all this, Clara never lost her faith and hope that she would find Eliza Jane.*

*The state of Colorado has recognized Clara Brown as a true pioneer, and a stained glass window dedicated to her memory is in the Colorado state capitol.*

The men on the wagon train sat around the campfire swapping stories while Clara, the cook, ladled stew onto their tin plates and smiled at their banter.

Tobias looked up at her. "Most of us are headin' out West to make our fortunes, but what about you, Aunt Clara? You gonna pan for gold?"

Clara shook her head. "I'm tryin' to find my daughter. We got sold to different families. I haven't seen Eliza Jane since she was eight years old."

"What makes you think she's in Colorado?" asked another man.

"It's safer for freed slaves in the West," sighed Clara. "I'm just hopin' that she got her freedom, too."

Jacob patted Clara's shoulder. "I'm sure you'll find her," he said. "If any one of us hear of her, we'll get word to you—and that's a promise."

Clara wiped her eyes. "You're the kindest bunch I ever met, and that's the truth!"

"And you're the best cook in seven states, Aunt Clara!" said Tobias. The men cheered and banged their tin plates.

"How about some more of those biscuits?" said another.

**Go On** 

### Reading

It was an arduous trip, but the wagon train finally arrived in Aurora, Colorado. Clara found employment in a bakery. She asked those who came in if they had heard of her Eliza Jane.

Many of the men from the wagon train, including Tobias and Jacob, stopped by to visit Clara when they came down from the mines. Clara always had fresh bread waiting for them. Whenever they became ill or needed a hot meal, Clara was there to help.

One day, the miners were sitting around in the bakery chatting, and one of them turned to her. "You got any extra money, Aunt Clara? You put it in silver mines!" he said.

"Yes, sir," said Clara. "If I had any extra, I surely would."

"I've made bundles in silver mines!" said another man, showing her his shiny new boots and gold lapel pin.

"I don't care much about buying fancy stuff," said Clara. "The only reason I came out West was to find my daughter."

"Well, with the money you could make in silver mines, you could find that daughter and buy her free in no time," said Jacob.

That night Clara sat in her little cabin and stared into the fire, pondering what her friends had said. There were a lot of miners up in Crescent City with no families—no one to help them with every day chores, like washing clothes or cooking.

A few weeks later Clara left for Crescent City. It was a strenuous trip, but she rode with Tobias, who was taking provisions back to his camp.

Clara rented a small cabin and got herself situated. Then she went to find Tobias.

"Are you getting settled in?" he asked her.

"I am," said Clara, "but I need you to make me a sign."

"Why sure," said Tobias. He wrote in his best handwriting:

### LAUNDRY 50 CENTS

Clara put the sign up, and soon the miners were flocking to her house. Tobias stopped to see how she was doing.

"You've been telling people about me!" said Clara. "Every time I ask, everyone says it was you that sent them! I surely do thank you!"

"Happy to, Aunt Clara." He laughed. "The town is already smelling a whole lot better!"

Clara had to carry heavy buckets of water from the stream to boil the shirts. She used a scrub board and horsehair brush and then hung the shirts to dry on lines behind her cabin. She heated irons by the fire and pressed the shirts on her table. She worked until late every night, but she still had time to help anyone in need. With the money she earned, she bought several small cabins and rented them out.

One day a miner came to drop off his washing. "What's bothering you, Mr. Cal?" Clara asked. "You look troubled."

"This is the last washing you'll be doing for me, Aunt Clara. I'm pulling up stakes." He paced around the room, whacking his hat against his pants. "I'm just about to hit a strike! I know I am!" He flopped down in a chair. "But I'm out of money!"

**Go On** 

Reading

Clara thought for a moment. "If I grubstake you, will you give me a cut of whatever you make?"

Cal's jaw dropped in astonishment for a moment, and then he laughed. "That's a nice offer Aunt Clara, but I'm gonna need several hundred dollars."

Clara thought about Eliza Jane. She might lose some of her money, but if Cal Johnson made a strike, she could buy her daughter that much faster when she found her.

"You just tell me how much you need, Mr. Cal," Clara said.

He jumped up from the chair. "You have the money?" He shook her hand heartily. "Now we're going to make this legal. We'll write up a paper. That way it'll be all fair and square," he said.

Within three months Cal Johnson made his strike and paid Clara back the money he owed plus considerably more.

Clara was doing very well with her laundry, too. She bought several more pieces of property and invested in some of the silver mines. But no matter how many people she talked to, no one knew the whereabouts of her daughter.

Years went by. Clara had more than enough money to buy her daughter's freedom, but still she couldn't find her. Eliza Jane had been sold several times, and no one could trace where she had gone.

The Civil War came and the slaves were free. "It'll be impossible to find your daughter now," Tobias said.

"You've got a lot of money put back," said Jacob. "You could buy yourself some nice things."

Clara shook her head. "I told you I don't care about fancy stuff, but I know what I will do with the money. I'll bring as many freed slaves as I can to Colorado," said Clara. "Help them start fresh."

Clara made the trip back to Tennessee, where she had been born. She put together a group of sixteen former slaves, paid for their passages and supplies, and helped them through the cumbersome trip west. When they reached Colorado, she found them jobs and places to live. It took almost every penny of the fortune she'd made.


One day Clara received a letter from a friend who had moved from Colorado to Iowa. The friend had found a woman she thought was Clara's daughter Eliza Jane!

Clara was eighty-two years old, in poor health, and almost broke from helping others. Her friends, many of whom she had helped, raised the money for her train fare, and Clara made the long journey to Council Bluffs, Iowa, where her daughter lived. As Clara got off the train, Eliza Jane was waiting for her. Eliza Jane was a grown woman with children and grandchildren of her own, but Clara recognized her right away. The mother and daughter laughed and cried and shouted as they saw each other. They hugged as if they would never let go. Over and over again, Eliza Jane kept saying, "Mama! Mama!" After more than forty long years, Clara had her daughter back again.


**Go On** 

**Reading**

- 1. “The Washerwoman” is influenced by what American historical event?**
  - A. the introduction of the railroad to the West
  - B. the struggle for equal rights for women
  - C. the discovery of gold in California
  - D. the end of slavery in the South
  
- 2. When Mr. Cal states that he is “pulling up stakes.” He means that he is --**
  - A. about to hit a strike
  - B. getting married
  - C. about to get a loan
  - D. leaving the area
  
- 3. What does the word arduous means in story?**
  - A. difficult
  - B. impossible
  - C. fascinating
  - D. typical
  
- 4. The word banter in this story relates to –**
  - A. eating habits
  - B. clothing selection
  - C. seating arrangement
  - D. story telling
  
- 5. Why does Clara travel to Colorado?**
  - A. She has free passage on the wagon.
  - B. She hopes her daughter is there.
  - C. She has a job waiting for her.
  - D. She wants to pan for gold.
  
- 6. Clara’s character is –**
  - A. envious
  - B. determined
  - C. carefree
  - D. bitter

Go On 

- 7. What is a synonym for cumbersome as it is used in the story?**
- A. difficult
  - B. entertaining
  - C. expensive
  - D. fearful
- 8. The conversation between Clara and the men at the beginning of the story introduces all of these EXCEPT—**
- A. her motivation for going to Colorado
  - B. her friendly relationship with the men
  - C. her skill at handling money effectively
  - D. her exceptional ability as a cook
- 9. What primary motivation directs Clara’s actions in the story?**
- A. getting rich
  - B. finding her daughter
  - C. helping the miners
  - D. buying property
- 10. Based on the story, what does grubstake mean?**
- A. protect
  - B. feed
  - C. finance
  - D. shelter
- 11. What major historical event occurred during Clara’s life that eventually led to her locating her daughter?**
- A. Women gained the right to vote.
  - B. The Civil War ended slavery.
  - C. Colorado gained its statehood.
  - D. Gold was discovered in California.
- 12. The Author’s Notes states that the men “affectionately called her Aunt Clara.” What does this indicate about Clara Brown?**
- A. She was the hardest working aunt in the wagon train.
  - B. She was related to all of the men.
  - C. She earned for sick men as if they were family.
  - D. She was skilled in medical practices and healing.

Go On 

**13. If Clara had lived in modern times, her career choice would probably be –**

- A. police officer
- B. politician
- C. social worker
- D. writer



# WRITING

## Writing

**Directions:** Read the writing prompt below. Use the next page for your prewriting and planning. Then write your draft.

Amusement parks are very popular in the United States, but Arizona doesn't have any. Suppose the board of directors of a large amusement park is considering building a park in the state.

Write an essay to persuade the board of directors to build an amusement park in your area.

Your essay should include:

- an introduction, body, and conclusion
- a clearly stated position
- specific, appropriate reasons
- persuasive word choice

Remember to edit for spelling, grammar, punctuation, and capitalization.

**Go On** ►

Writing


**DIRECTIONS:**

## PREWRITING/PLANNING

**Go On** 

**DIRECTIONS:**

**DRAFT**

**Go On** 



# WRITING

## Writing

### FINAL COPY

**DIRECTIONS:**

Now you are going to revise your draft. Read your draft. Then use the questions in the Writer's Checklist as a guide to make changes to your draft. Check each box if you can answer "yes" to that question.



#### WRITER'S CHECKLIST

- ☐ Does my paper have a specific audience and a specific purpose?
- ☐ Does my paper contain a strong controlling idea?
- ☐ Does my paper stay on topic?
- ☐ Does my paper include specific and relevant details, reasons, and examples?
- ☐ Does my paper have an effective beginning, middle, and end?
- ☐ Does my paper progress in a logical order, and do my ideas flow smoothly?
- ☐ Does my paper contain words that make it interesting?
- ☐ Does my paper contain sentences that are clear and varied in structure?
- ☐ Does my paper include effective use of paragraphing?
- ☐ Does my paper include correct grammar/usage, punctuation, capitalization, and spelling?

**DIRECTIONS:**

For each box you did not check, make the change on your draft. Then write your final copy in your Answer Document.



AIMS Reading Released Items Statistics

Item	Item Data							
1	Item Number	3147005	Correct Answer	D	p-value	.675	Equated Rasch value	.5287
					2003 Aligned PO		RHS-S2C2-PO1	
	“The Washerwoman” is influenced by what American historical event?							
	A. the introduction of the railroad to the West B. the struggle for equal rights for women C. the discovery of gold in California D. the end of slavery in the South							
2	Item Number	3147004	Correct Answer	D	p-value	.459	Equated Rasch value	1.5717
					2003 Aligned PO		RHS-S2C1-PO2	
	When Mr. Cal states that he is “pulling up stakes.” He means that he is --							
	A. about to hit a strike B. getting married C. about to get a loan D. leaving the area							
3	Item Number	3147003	Correct Answer	A	p-value	.815	Equated Rasch value	-.4481
					2003 Aligned PO		RHS-S1C4-PO2	
	What does the word <u>arduous</u> means in story?							
	A. difficult B. impossible C. fascinating D. typical							
4	Item Number	3147002	Correct Answer	D	p-value	.547	Equated Rasch value	1.2026
					2003 Aligned PO		RHS-S1C4-PO2	
	The word <u>banter</u> in this story relates to –							
	A. eating habits B. clothing selection C. seating arrangement D. story telling							

AIMS Reading Released Items Statistics

Item	Item Data							
5	Item Number	3147001	Correct Answer	B	p-value	.883	Equated Rasch value	-1.0134
					2003 Aligned PO		RHS-S2C1-PO1	
	<p><b>Why does Clara travel to Colorado?</b></p> <p>A. She has free passage on the wagon.</p> <p>B. She hopes her daughter is there.</p> <p>C. She has a job waiting for her.</p> <p>D. She wants to pan for gold.</p>							
6	Item Number	3147000	Correct Answer	B	p-value	.87	Equated Rasch value	-.9305
					2003 Aligned PO		RHS-S2C1-PO1	
	<p><b>Clara’s character is –</b></p> <p>A. envious</p> <p>B. determined</p> <p>C. carefree</p> <p>D. bitter</p>							
7	Item Number	3146999	Correct Answer	A	p-value	.784	Equated Rasch value	-.1535
					2003 Aligned PO		RHS-S1C4-PO2	
	<p><b>What is a synonym for <u>cumbersome</u> as it is used in the story?</b></p> <p>A. difficult</p> <p>B. entertaining</p> <p>C. expensive</p> <p>D. fearful</p>							
8	Item Number	3146998	Correct Answer	C	p-value	.78	Equated Rasch value	-.1225
					2003 Aligned PO		RHS-S2C1-PO4	
	<p><b>The conversation between Clara and the men at the beginning of the story introduces all of these EXCEPT—</b></p> <p>A. her motivation for going to Colorado</p> <p>B. her friendly relationship with the men</p> <p>C. her skill at handling money effectively</p> <p>D. her exceptional ability as a cook</p>							

AIMS Reading Released Items Statistics

Item	Item Data							
9	Item Number	3146997	Correct Answer	B	p-value	.889	Equated Rasch value	-1.0819
					2003 Aligned PO		RHS-S2C1-PO1	
	<p><b>What primary motivation directs Clara’s actions in the story?</b></p> <p>A. getting rich</p> <p>B. finding her daughter</p> <p>C. helping the miners</p> <p>D. buying property</p>							
10	Item Number	3146995	Correct Answer	C	p-value	.778	Equated Rasch value	-.1731
					2003 Aligned PO		RHS-S1C4-PO2	
	<p><b>Based on the story, what does <u>grubstake</u> mean?</b></p> <p>A. protect</p> <p>B. feed</p> <p>C. finance</p> <p>D. shelter</p>							
11	Item Number	3146994	Correct Answer	B	p-value	.833	Equated Rasch value	-.5912
					2003 Aligned PO		RHS-S2C2-PO1	
	<p><b>What major historical event occurred during Clara’s life that eventually led to her locating her daughter?</b></p> <p>A Women gained the right to vote.</p> <p>B. The Civil War ended slavery.</p> <p>C. Colorado gained its statehood.</p> <p>D. Gold was discovered in California.</p>							
12	Item Number	3146993	Correct Answer	C	p-value	.824	Equated Rasch value	-.5205
					2003 Aligned PO		RHS-S2C1-PO1	
	<p><b>The Author’s Notes states that the men “affectionately called her Aunt Clara.” What does this indicate about Clara Brown?</b></p> <p>A. She was the hardest working aunt in the wagon train.</p> <p>B. She was related to all of the men.</p> <p>C. She earned for sick men as if they were family.</p> <p>D. She was skilled in medical practices and healing.</p>							

# AIMS Reading Released Items Statistics

Item	Item Data							
13								
	Item Number	3146992	Correct Answer	C	p-value	.803	Equated Rasch value	-.3539
					2003 Aligned PO		RHS-S1C6-PO4	
	If Clara had lived in modern times, her career choice would probably be –							
	A. police officer B. politician C. social worker D. writer							